

13 February 1973

Dear Elizabeth,

As I told you in our brief conversation yesterday, I have attended few awards ceremonies where the recipient was as richly deserving as were you, and none where the recipient was better looking.

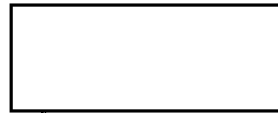
There is little anyone could add to what Dick said or Sherm wrote. I did, nonetheless, want to inject one slightly formal comment into a valued friendship that has generally been marked by easy banter and camaraderie. I may be nearsighted and astigmatic, but I do not miss all that much. One thing I have never missed, for one instant, is the way in which you have done so much to make my tasks easier. As with everything else you do, this has been accomplished with effortless, unobtrusive grace so efficient as to be well nigh invisible. But I know, and will always appreciate, the help you have always given me so generously, so spontaneously and so skillfully.

Our mutual friend has many admirable traits and attributes, two of which are germane here. He has had -- to the outward eye -- the leanest private staff of any senior official in the Government: one secretary and one staff aide who, in turn, also has one secretary. Period. But in this regard, appearances have been far more than a trifle deceptive. The one "secretary" ostensibly alone in that outer office, could work any phalanx of flag officer spear carriers right into the ground without missing a beat or once disturbing her always flawless poise.

Secondly, our friend has a gift for the precisely apposite phrase. Above your typewriter hangs a picture with a simple inscription: "To Elizabeth, my strong right arm." This you have indeed been over the years. And with an arm like that, there is nothing one could not accomplish.

Our increasingly close association over the past eight years has always been a delight to me and our evolving friendship one of its greatest rewards. All of us who have worked with you stand in your debt. So too does the Agency, which is why no award was ever more richly deserved -- and why there was never one I was personally more pleased to see conferred.

As ever,



George A. Carver, Jr.

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